

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 2, 3 and 4 as follows:

Sub 2

Claim 2 (amended). A purified or isolated nucleic acid according to claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide having at least 90% identity with the sequence encoding :

- from amino-acid 1 to between amino-acids 1027 and 1062 of SEQ ID N°20 for $\alpha_2\delta$ -2,
- from amino-acid 1 to between amino-acids 984 and 1019 of SEQ ID N°22 for $\alpha_2\delta$ -3

wherein the differing nucleotides encode amino acids which are the same as the amino acids of the SEQ ID N°20 and SEQ ID N°22 through codon degeneracy or encode amino acids which are equivalent to the amino acids of SEQ ID N°20 and SEQ ID N°22 either by structural homology, by net charge or hydrophobicity similarity, such that the encoded polypeptide retains its specificity and affinity properties to the biological targets of the parent polypeptides.

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Claim 3 (amended). A purified or isolated nucleic acid according to claim 1, having at least 90% identity with the sequence encoding :

- from amino-acid 1 to between amino-acids 1047 and 1062 of SEQ ID N°20 for $\alpha_2\delta$ -2,
- from amino-acid 1 to between amino-acids 1004 and 1019 of SEQ ID N°22 for $\alpha_2\delta$ -3

wherein the differing nucleotides encode amino acids which are the same as the amino acids of the SEQ ID N°20 and SEQ ID N°22 through codon degeneracy or encode amino acids which are equivalent to the amino acids of SEQ ID N°20 and SEQ ID N°22 either by structural homology, by net charge or hydrophobicity similarity, such that the encoded polypeptide retains its specificity and affinity properties to the biological targets of the parent polypeptides.

Claim 4 (amended). A purified or isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1 wherein said sequence is the sequence of SEQ ID N°1, SEQ ID N°2, SEQ ID N°3, SEQ ID N°7, SEQ ID N°8, SEQ ID N°9, SEQ ID N°13, SEQ ID N°14, or SEQ ID N°15.

Please delete Claims 5, 6, 7 and 9.

Please add new Claim 23.

B¹⁵ Subc 4

Claim 23 (NEW). A purified or isolated nucleic acid having at least 90% identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID N°1, SEQ ID N°2, SEQ ID N°3, SEQ ID N°7, SEQ ID N°8, SEQ ID N°9, SEQ ID N°13, SEQ ID N°14, or SEQ ID N°15.

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